

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Second Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to insert a cross-reference to the parent International application and to add appropriate section headings. In addition, the references to the claims in the Summary section have been replaced with the text of the original claims and typographical errors in the detailed description have been corrected, as well as additional reference numbers have been introduced, in order to improve the clarity of the description. No new matter has been added.

New claims 9-28 are submitted herewith for examination and replace original claims 1-7, which have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing such claims at a later date.

Support for the new claims in the original claims is identified as follows:

Claims 9 and 26: Original claim 1

Claims 10, 19 and 27: Original claim 2

Claim 11 and 20: Original claim 3

Claims 12 and 21: Original claim 4

Claims 13, 15, 22 and 24: Original claim 5

Claims 14, 16, 23 and 25: Original claim 6

Claim 17: Original claims 1 and 7

Claim 18: Original claim 8

Claim 28: Original claims 3-5

Additional support is provided by the specification and figures and can be identified, if necessary.

For the convenience of the Examiner, it is noted that the German patent publication discussed in paragraph [0003] of the specification correspond to US Patent Publication No. 2002/024231, which has been cited in the accompanying IDS.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present Application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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